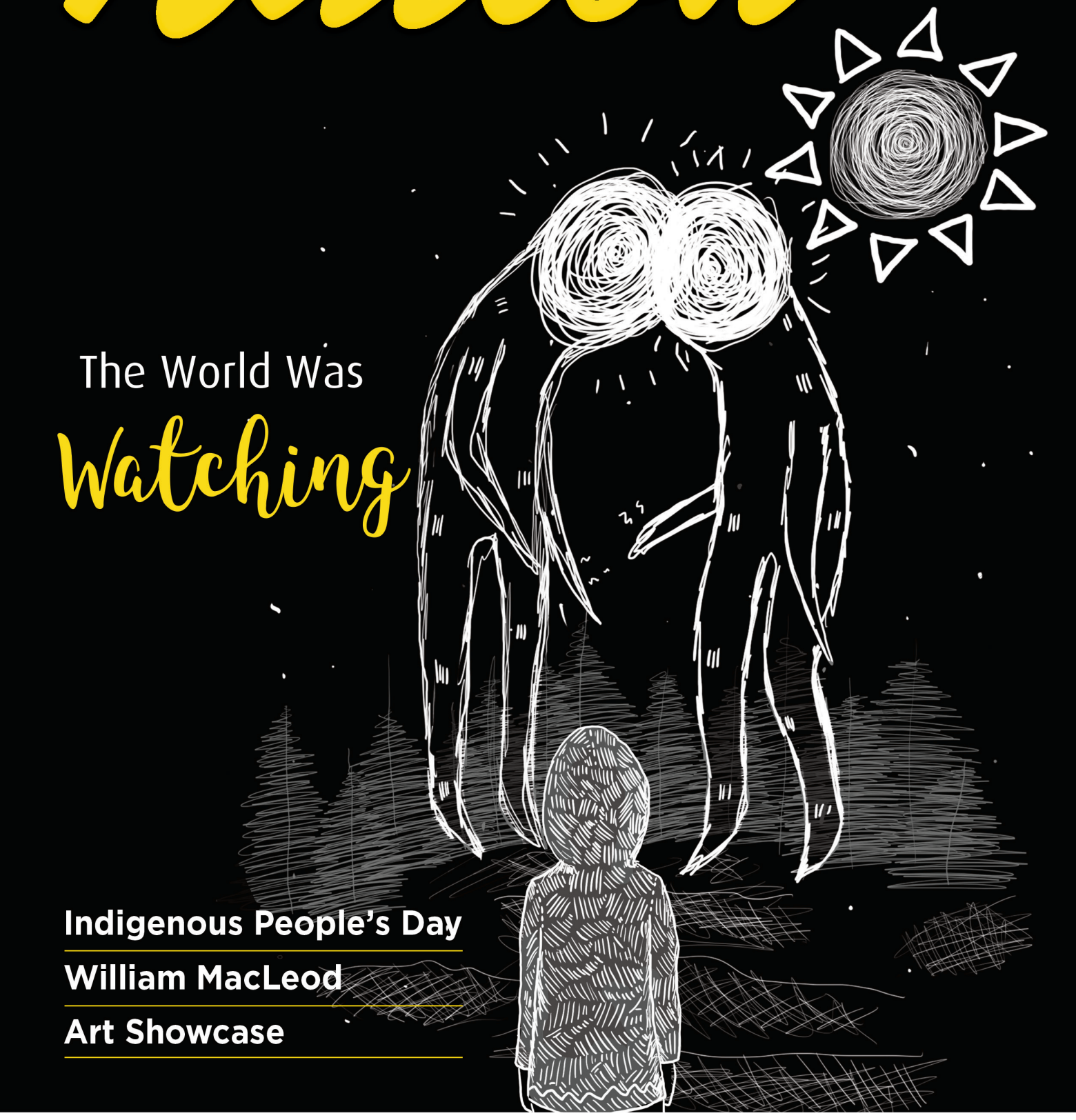
Volume 24, No. 18, July 07, 2017

Nation



The World Was Watching

Indigenous People's Day

William MacLeod

Art Showcase

$2.50
Canada Post Publication No. 40015005

Free in Eeyou Istchee
Serving Eeyou Istchee since 1993

STAY ACTIVE EVERY DAY

You can do many physical activities as an individual, a family, and a community.
Canoeing and paddling trips are a great way to make fond memories together.
Active parents will have active children!

TIPS FOR BOATING SAFETY

Learn to swim. Eliminate your fear of water.

Wear a life jacket (PFD). Make it a good habit.

Avoid alcohol. Boating and alcohol is a bad mix.

Take a Boating Safety Course.

Check the weather forecasts.

Tell someone where you are going and what time you expect to be back.

Do a safety check on your boat and outboard motor.

Take extra gasoline.

Take extra clothes and a warm jacket.

Make a safety kit for your trip and yourself.

Conseil Cri de la santé et des services sociaux de la Baie James
ᓂᐧᑐᐻᕆᓵ ᑲᕆ ᐊᐢᑎᐃ ᐊᐦᐃᓵ ᐊᓇᓇ ᑲᒋᑕᑲᓂᐅᑦ
Cree Board of Health and Social Services of James Bay

For more information, contact Public Health:
Wally Rabbitskin: 418-923-3355
George Diamond: 819-855-7434

CONTENTS

7 | Quebec's plan of action

5 | Cree Nation Government speaks on Quebec's public inquiry

10 | Indigenous People's Day

20 | MacLeod honoured

28 | Nishiyuu world premiere

36 | Mikw Chiyâm art showcase

44 | Improving Eeyou internet service

EDITORIAL
Be heard 4

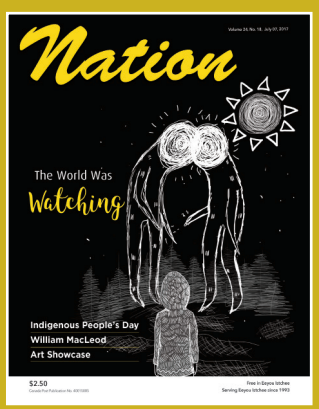
NEWS
The will to listen 5
"Concrete commitment" 7

IN BRIEF 9

FEATURES
Indigenous People's Day 10
Outstanding Indigenous leadership 20
The world was watching 28
Mikw Chiyâm 36
Cree connections 44

REZ NOTES
Fashionistas 49

UTNS
A legacy of love 50



Legend of Cheecheojans
Illustration by
Saige Mukash

Editorial

Be heard

by Will Nicholls

This is our last opportunity to encourage you to participate in the Cree Nation Government elections in Eeyou Istchee before the first round of voting on July 12 (advance polls are on July 5). Not all people need that encouragement as in the communities and on social media, we've heard and read a variety of reasons why people will be casting their vote the way they will.

It's lucky that the Cree have no party affiliations (Liberal, Conservative, etc.). We vote strictly for the candidate we want to represent us. Reasons underlying our choices range from leadership styles to particular platforms or stances on important issues. In some cases, instead of voting for someone, we make a choice based on a candidate we don't want to win.

But then you hear from people who won't be voting. My vote doesn't mean anything as nothing ever changes, they say. The new boss is the same as the old boss, so why bother? Often, non-voters may simply dislike politics.

Every vote counts, however. Just look at Quebec's last referendum on separation, which was decided by a handful of votes out of the millions that were cast. In federal elections, increased Cree participation means we now have a Cree representing us in Parliament.

There are many people in the world who don't have the same rights and freedoms as we do. Voting shouldn't be considered an inconvenience but a responsibility. That's why your employer is obliged give you time off in order to vote. Those short lines to the ballot box may give you some time to have a coffee, grab a snack, even see a lover.

Of course, neither voters nor leaders will get everything they want out of this election. Compromises between opposing interests will have to be made. But for everyone there will have been important issues raised and brought into the open.

I hope people take the time to vote for many reasons but, mostly, because they can.

Lastly, *the Nation* congratulates candidates who put their names forward to run in this election. Win or lose, it takes a lot of strength of character, commitment, and a desire to help others to put your name on a ballot.

So we thank all of our candidates and appreciate their sacrifice. The least we can do in return is to vote in this election for Grand Chief and Deputy Grand Chief.

the Nation is published every two weeks by Beesum Communications **EDITORIAL BOARD** L. Stewart, W. Nicholls, M. Siberok, Mr. N. Diamond, E. Webb **EDITOR IN CHIEF** Will Nicholls **DIRECTOR OF FINANCES** Linda Ludwick **EDITORS** Lyle Stewart, Martin Siberok **PRODUCTION AND SOCIAL MEDIA COORDINATOR** Joshua Grant **CONTRIBUTING WRITERS** S. Orr, X. Kataquapit, D. Isaac, J. Grant, A. German, T. Turner **DESIGN** Matthew Dessner **SALES AND ADVERTISING** Danielle Valade, Wendall Gull **THANKS TO: Air Creebec**

CONTACT US: The Nation, 4529 CLARK, #403, Montreal, QC., H2T 2T3 **EDITORIAL & ADS:** Tel.: 514-272-3077, Fax: 514-278-9914 **HEAD OFFICE:** P.O. Box 151, Chisasibi, QC. J0M 1E0 www.nationnews.ca **EDITORIAL:** nation@nationnews.ca news@nationnews.ca **ADS:** Danielle Valade: ads@nationnews.ca Wendall Gull: wendall@nationnews.ca Mike Ryan: sales@nationnews.ca **SUBSCRIPTIONS:** $60 plus taxes, US: $90, Abroad: $110, Payable to beesum communications, all rights reserved, publication mail #40015005, issn #1206-2642 **The Nation is a member of:** The James Bay Cree Communications Society, Circle Of Aboriginal Controlled Publishers, Magazines Canada Quebec Community Newspaper Assn. Canadian Newspapers Assn. Les Hebdos Sélect Du Québec.

Magazines Canada CMCA AUDITED QCNA AJRQ

News

The will to listen

CNG focus shifts to **Cree participation** in public inquiry

by Dan Isaac

Quebec's Public Inquiry Commission on relations between Indigenous peoples and certain public services is almost through its first phase of hearings. Over the month of June, the inquiry heard from Indigenous nations, leaders and organizations in order to better situate itself for phase two of the process – personal testimonies.

The inquiry's mission is to listen, reconcile and progress. It will hear testimony related to correctional, health, social and youth services and render its final report by November 30, 2018.

Melissa Saganash, the CNG's Director of Cree Quebec Relations, has worked alongside Grand Chief Matthew Coon Come on the file and says there is willingness on the part of the commission to listen.

"We've seen that the listening is there," Saganash told *the Nation*. "The inquiry wants to hear what's been happening and understand who the Indigenous people of Quebec are. It's a good start."

But despite the will to listen, the question remains: can a governing body truly be impartial when examining itself?

In Saganash's view, the second phase – when individuals have the chance to testify – will be crucial for organizations and governments. "We have to watch and ensure the commission is listening and hearing these stories and translating them into appropriate recommendations," she said. "We have to be able to create real change, and for that to happen everyone needs to pitch in."

To its credit, the inquiry endeavours to speak to serious, long-standing issues. Addressing the last 15 years of systemic discrimination and violence faced by Indigenous people is no small task.

For the Cree, however, three issues will take centre stage: housing, policing and the tendency of governments, both federal and provincial, to hide behind jurisdiction.

"The critical shortage of housing in the communities underlies all the other problems. As long as Indigenous people are forced to live 10, 15 and 20 persons in a single house, health and social issues will continue to cause them to leave for cities. This has to change," Coon Come said.

> ***And so it was fitting*** *that my last public appearance as Grand Chief was before the Commission of Inquiry – it can do much to heal the injuries of the past and restore Indigenous people their rights and dignity.*
>
> *- Grand Chief Coon Come*

"Another key issue is the need to change attitudes and behaviours among some members of the police force and other public services, to do away with discrimination toward Indigenous people. Changing attitudes is always difficult, and it takes time. But we have to start now."

Coon Come called on the federal and provincial governments to "stop hiding behind jurisdictional issues to 'pass the buck' to each other. Instead, they must work together with Indigenous authorities to take real action to solve the problems giving rise to systemic discrimination against Indigenous people."

Saganash believes that for things to change there needs to be a culture shift, one that begins with understanding,

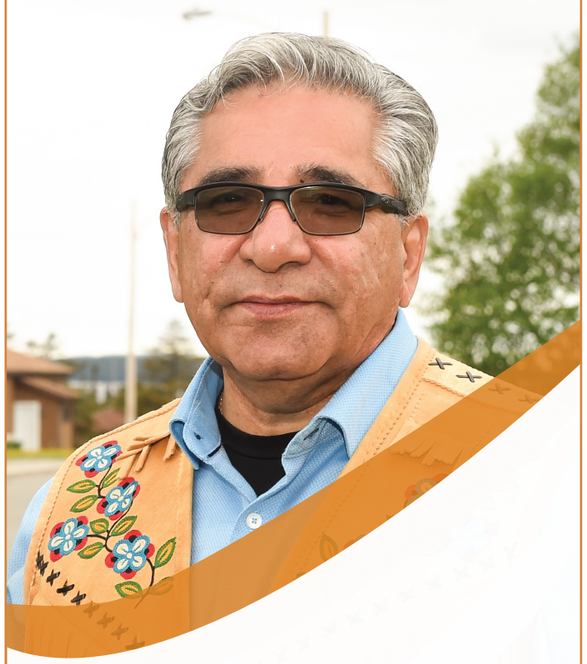
"There needs to be at the very least an acknowledgement of our culture," she implored. "We're not just relegated to our communities; we're going to be accessing services. There's certainly a lack of understanding of our cultures. The realities of the Sixties Scoop and residential schools – there's been a lasting colonial impact on our people. We're resilient, but there needs to be an acknowledgment, understanding and respect of our cultures."

In a concrete form, Saganash added, this could take the form of better training for non-Indigenous police officers about the realities and challenges faced by people coming from Indigenous communities to urban centres.

The provincial commission now shifts to individuals who signed up to share their own perspectives on Quebec's relationship with Indigenous peoples. The CNG has requested that resources be provided for legal services and travel and that the opportunity be afforded to participants from Eeyou Istchee to address the inquiry's commissioners in Cree.

For Coon Come, the commission is a fitting conclusion to his term. "I've spent my whole life fighting for the rights and dignity of Indigenous people," he told *The Nation*. "That's why I fought so hard to help create this Commission of Inquiry. And so it was fitting that my last public appearance as Grand Chief was before the Commission of Inquiry – it can do much to heal the injuries of the past and restore Indigenous people their rights and dignity."

ABEL **BOSUM**



CHIIYAANUU

CHIIYAANUU, we will work in UNITY to bring out the best in us, the best from our communities, the best from our Nation, and from everyone who aspires and dreams to be part of a dynamic and prosperous Eeyou Nation!

CHIIYAANUU, we will address our family issues, we will address our community issues and we will address our Eeyou Nation issues, with transparency and courage!

CHIIYAANUU, we will revisit what has worked in the last 40 years and we will strengthen it. We will look at the issues that have divided us and we will address them with one objective, "TO BE UNITED"!

CHIIYAANUU, we will make concrete efforts to build our human capacity. Our Capacity Building Strategy will bring together all the Eeyou resources to ensure everyone who wishes to obtain a career or a job skill will have the support and means to attain it!

"Concrete Commitment"

Quebec announces five-year **social and cultural funding plan for First Nations and Inuit**

by Joshua Grant | Photo by Patrick Lachance

The Quebec government revealed its plan to improve relations with Indigenous communities in the province last week, committing $147.3 million and introducing over 100 measures to enhance services, promote Indigenous cultures and languages and foster collaboration and research.

The June 28 announcement of the Government Action Plan for the Social and Cultural Development of the First Nations and Inuit included a separate $135 million Aboriginal Initiatives Fund (AIF) III and the creation of a panel for the educational success of Indigenous students. Proclaimed as a "concrete commitment to Indigenous nations," the plan of action and the AIF III are both results of the ongoing provincial inquiry and consultations with First Nations leadership.

"This initial action plan is a concrete commitment by our government to Quebec's Indigenous nations," said Premier Philippe Couillard in a press release. "We wish to give them all of the tools possible to ensure that they continue to be dynamic, involved, creative, innovative communities."

The Nation spoke to Quebec Native Affairs Minister Geoffrey Kelley to break down what the plan of action means to Eeyou Istchee and other First Nations in Quebec.

"One of the things that we heard over and over again in all of our consultations with First Nations and Inuit was the importance of protecting language and culture," Kelley said. "We want to make a statement about the importance of Indigenous languages in Quebec and Quebec's willingness to work with the people of Eeyou Istchee [and First Nations across the province] to do that."

Kelley also mentioned a focus on preparing and equipping Indigenous people to better adapt to urban environments, and the importance of addressing violence against Indigenous women.

"We're aware of the many social issues," he said. "There will be new measures introduced by my colleagues to address things like conjugal violence and the difficulties First Nations face when they find themselves in towns and cities across Quebec."

Kelley added that while some who move to urban environments have a good game plan, others "aren't always as well prepared." He hopes that increased funding for Native Friendship Centres in Val-d'Or, Senneterre, Chibougamau and Montreal will help.

"[The Friendship Centre] becomes a reference point, a place for First Nations people to go for a warm cup of coffee and advice on housing and finding a job. The announcement today will help us strengthen that network," he said.

"More and more people from First Nations are spending time in urban areas. People who come into town need help, need those reference points to find housing and find work and other services. We need to work together with First Nations and Inuit leadership to make sure that this happens."

Kelley noted that while the action plan is big news for the Cree, the seven allocations outlined in the latest AIF are already covered in the Paix des Braves.

"The action plan is a first for Quebec," he said, "but the Aboriginal Initiative Fund is a little less relevant to the Cree as it's something already in place through the Paix des Braves. It means $135 million in funding for infrastructure and for First Nations that don't have their own modern treaty. Quebec will be involved in their economic development."

The Assembly of First Nations of Quebec and Labrador welcomed the announcement, noting in a press release that this is the first major initiative undertaken by the provincial government toward First Nations since the Socioeconomic Forum of Mashteuiatsh 10 years ago.

However, AFNQL Chief Ghislain Picard said the Couillard Government needed to put the plan in context in order to reach lasting results in social and cultural development.

"All the good intentions of the provincial government towards the social development of our First Nations will never prevent it from having to recognize and respect the Aboriginal and Treaty Rights and Titles over the territories they never ceded," said Picard. "The primary and fundamental condition of the socioeconomic development of people is, above all, the access to its territory and its resources. There cannot be a real reconciliation without this unavoidable recognition."

Kelley emphasized the importance of coordination, consultation and teamwork between Quebec's government institutions, Indigenous leaders and community organizations. He also stressed the need to understand the unique situations of each First Nations and Inuit community in Quebec.

"For example, dealing with violence against women, we need better education for prevention, social services like women's shelters that give women better protection, a justice system that is sensitive to the needs and concerns of vulnerable women and if the police have to get involved then the public security system is there as well. We have to make sure that the left hand knows that the right hand is doing, both within the government and in partnership with First Nations," Kelley said.

"There are different Native realities in Quebec," he continued. "To be a Cree in Mistissini is very different to being an Innu in Pakwashipi and a Mohawk in Kahnawake. We need to remind Quebec how young our First Nations communities are and work to provide a better future for these young people. Half of the Native population in Quebec is under 30. That's a job for Native leadership, the government and private sector, everybody has to work together on that."

Though only time will tell how successful the new funding and announced measures will be, Kelley assured *the Nation* that Quebec will make good on its promises.

"We're going to make sure that what's on paper becomes reality," he said. "To me, what matters is to do more, to do better and to act now."

THE MARKETPLACE

Contact Danielle Valade at 514-272-3077 or ads@nationnews.ca to advertise

Are you an Aboriginal victim of police abuse?
We can help!

Services Parajudiciaires Autochtones du Québec
Native Para-judicial Services of Quebec

1-888-844-2094
pav@spaq.qc.ca
www.spaq.qc.ca

UNIGLOBE One Travel

CREE NATION Holyland Pilgrimage
Escorted by Lance Cooper

November 20-30th 2017

$3795.00 CDN includes
Round trip air/hotel accommodation/touring/two meals daily
insurance and tax

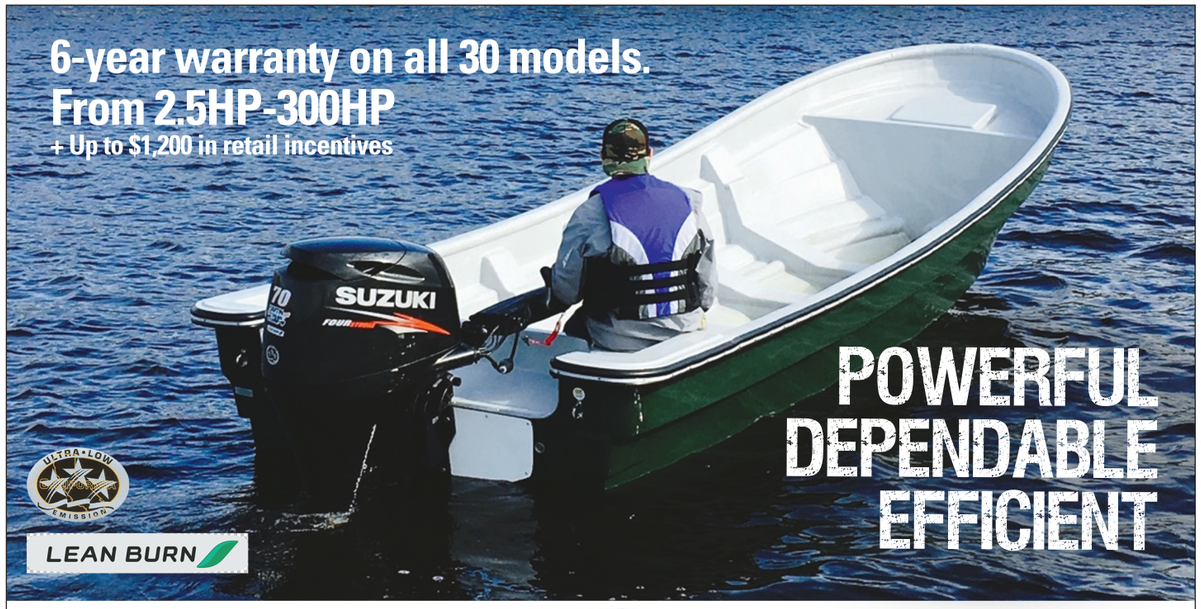
Contact:
nealc@uniglobeone.com
lancepcooper@hotmail.com

NEW

10 ads
5 months of visibility

A page filled with little ad spaces, enough to be seen by our readers without breaking the bank!

- **Ad sizes:** 1.75 x 1.75 inches; you can combine up to two spaces horizontally or vertically
- **Price:** $396 for a single space package, or only $39.60 per ad
  $792 for a double space package or only $79.20 per ad



MARTIN TOUT TERRAIN
Val-d'Or, QC 819-824-4575
martintoutterrain.com

L'EXPERT MARINE
Alma, QC 418-769-3433
lexpertmarine.com

SUZUKI

Way of Life!

Retail Incentives & Additional SPP coverage available on select new and unregistered Suzuki Marine Outboard Motors purchased at a participating Canadian Dealer between April 1st, 2017 to June 30th, 2017. Suzuki Retail incentives are direct-to-dealer incentives deducted from the MSRP. Retail incentives from $50 (DF2.5SJ) up to $1,500 (DF300XLS) on select models. SPP warranty listed includes 36 month factory limited warranty plus an additional warranty coverage to total listed SPP coverage on select models. Warranty and SPP warranty offered has no dollar value and cannot be exchanged or resold for any monetary value. Model may not be exactly as shown. MSRP and promotion may change without notice. This promotion is time limited and certain conditions may apply; please see your participating Canadian dealer for complete details. Offer cannot be combined with any other special offers, promotions or financing incentives unless specified. PDI charges from $110 to $328, freight charges of $40 up to $115, taxes, license, insurance, applicable fees and registration are extra dependent on model. Specifications, product features and colours are subject to change without notice. Read your owner's manual carefully and remember to observe all safety regulations. See your participating Authorized Suzuki dealer for availability and complete details. Suzuki Way of Life!

In Brief

Val-d'Or adopts **UNDRIP**

Two days before National Indigenous Peoples Day and the day before Mayor Pierre Corbeil appeared in front of Quebec's public inquiry into relations with Indigenous peoples, the city council of Val-d'Or symbolically adopted the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples on June 19.

The city said the move was made in response to one of the 94 recommendations of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission. The resolution adopted by Val-d'Or council comes with the stipulation that the municipality call upon the federal government to adopt Bill C-262, proposed by MP Romeo Saganash, to harmonize its laws with the UN declaration.

"We're asking the federal, provincial and territorial governments all the way to municipal administrations to adopt and put into place the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples as part of the process of reconciliation," the city said in a statement.

The press release added that the resolution is a step towards reconciliation and the construction of a new partnership between Val-d'Or and its Indigenous neighbours. Specifically mentioned were the signatories of the Val-d'Or Declaration of December 15, 2015 – Lac-Simon, Kitcisakik, Pikogan and the Grand Council of the Crees.

Adopted by the UN in 2007, the UNDRIP states that Indigenous communities have the rights to self-determination and self-governance and must be properly consulted and informed when their territory, culture, resources and language come into question.

Romeo Saganash

Cree Governance **Agreement**

The Grand Council said the federal cabinet has approved the Cree Nation Governance Agreement. More on this late breaking news story next issue.

Regret the errors

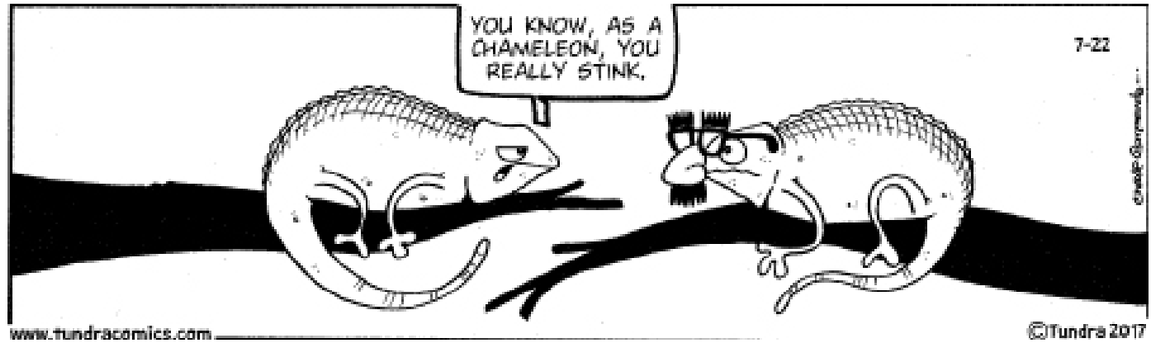
The Nation, like anyone else, must be held accountable when it makes mistakes. In our last issue (Vol 24, No 17), several errors were made and for those we apologize.

In our story on Cree Champ Michael Petawabano, the boxer thanked Christine Petawabano for helping him on his journey. Christine is actually Michael's godmother and not his grandmother, as was printed.

While we were tooting our own horn for the awards we won from the Quebec Community Newspaper Association, we co-attributed a first-place winning ad design to graphic designer Jinheng Taing, when in fact marketing director Melissa Juliette Mulligan was responsible for all aspects of the winning production.

Due to a lack of photos from election candidates, we mistakenly published a photo of the wrong Matoush in our feature on the nominees for Grand Chief and Deputy Grand Chief. Sorry about that, John, hope this makes it up to you. Tim, we hope you enjoyed the free publicity.

And finally, we have to shout out MC Naskapi-9, @Naskapi9 on Twitter, who was mistakenly identified as N9ne Livez in our May 26 issue (Vol 24, No 15).



CELEBRATING INDIGENOUS PRIDE

by Dan Isaac | Photos provided by Val-d'Or Friendship Centre, APTN & Stornoway

Aboriginal Day has come and gone and, for the most part, Canadians have gone about their lives, as usual, without noticing. In this time of reconciliation, it could be time for the federal government to recognize June 21 as a national holiday. But who am I to say?

Maybe it's just happenstance that our day overlaps with a number of provincial and federal holidays. Or maybe it was a compromise – a series of conversations that ended in "Let's just give them a day" instead of a holiday.

Nevertheless, the appropriately re-named National Indigenous Peoples Day was a national event that, if only for a moment, brought the unique and diverse cultures of Canada's First Peoples to the forefront.

Here are a few photos from celebrations organized across the country, snapshots of the beauty and timeless traditions that make us who we are.

Here are a few photos from celebrations organized across the country, snapshots of the beauty and **timeless traditions** that make us who we are.

VAL-D'OR

Edith Cloutier, executive director of Native Friendship Centre, was pleased with the celebrations that occurred in Val-d'Or this year:

Aboriginal Day in Val-d'Or was an exceptional opportunity to launch Kijate, the construction project of the long-awaited social housing for Indigenous families. It was a historical moment for the community since Kijate is the first Aboriginal initiative funded under the AccèsLogis Québec program of the Société d'habitation du Québec (SHQ). In December, 24 families will benefit from better housing and an improved quality of life for their children.

Aboriginal Day in Val-d'Or was also marked by the official opening of Kinawit, the cultural and tourism site located 10 km from downtown Val-d'Or. Kinawit is located on the traditional land of the Anishinaabe people, in natural surroundings by Lac Lemoine, an ideal site for gatherings and traditional activities.

These celebrations were great opportunities for sharing and constructive exchanges between the Natives and non-Natives of Val-d'Or. This year, Aboriginal Day was a step on the path of reconciliation.

These celebrations were ***great opportunities for sharing*** *and constructive exchanges between the Natives and non-Natives of Val-d'Or.*

- Edith Cloutier

Montreal

Actor Brittany LeBorgne (Mohawk Girls), who hosted Montreal's section of APTN's Aboriginal Day Live, spoke with *the Nation* following her duties.

I was honoured to be part of the largest celebration of National Indigenous Peoples Day. But it's been a declared day since 1996, but I don't ever remember hearing about it until a few years ago. It's so great that we have this day but I feel like it should be equivalent to Saint-Jean-Baptiste Day or Canada Day and recognized as a national holiday. It should be just as important.

The event was sparsely attended before we went live, but after we did people started showing up. People were coming in out off the street and participating. It was an event that united people.

I'm a positive person and see Canada 150 as an opportunity to look at where we are, where we need to be and lets take this opportunity to start educating people to get where we want to be. Seeing everyone there from all backgrounds was really heartening for me.

I'm from Kahnawake and whenever I do something public, I'm always trying to represent my community so I just wanted to go out there and do my people proud.

I would like to see more non-Indigenous people go out there and educate themselves about the Indigenous people of Canada. People always use a blanket term to refer to Indigenous people and they don't realize the diversity that exists within the Indigenous community. So my reconciliation tip would be to seek out that information because our education system, unfortunately hasn't caught up with reality.

> *People always use a blanket term to refer to Indigenous people and they don't realize* ***the diversity*** *that exists within the Indigenous community*
>
> - Brittany LaBorgne

Department of
Justice and Correctional Services

·Δ♭ᐠძσᑦ·Δ° ᑭ♭
ძᐟᐠძσ·ᐊ·Δ° ᐊΛΠᓂ·Δ° ᐊ ᐅᐣᑎ ἀἈᑭᑎᐣᑕᑭσ·Δᒃ

Δᓱᓱ° CAVAC ᐊ ΛΓΛᓱᐣᑕᑭσ·Δᒃ
(ᑲ·Δσ"≠ጋᑎ·ᐊᑭσ·Δᒃ ᐊ·ᐊσᑦ ᐊ ᐅᐣᑎ ·Δᑎᐣᐊᑭσ·Δᒃ)

ᑲ ·Δσ"ጋᑎ·ᐊᑭσ·Δᒃ ᐊ·ᐊσᑦ ᐊ ᐅᐣᑎ ·Δᑎᐣᐊᑭσ·Δᒃ ᑦ ᐅᔨᐣᑕᑭσ·Δ° ᑎᑦ ·Δᑎᐣᐊᑭσ·Δᒃ ᐊσᑦ ᐊ·ᐊσᑦ ᐊᑦ ·Δσᑐ·ᑕᑭσ·Δᒃ ᐅᑦᓴ·ᐊᐣ, ᐅᒥᑐᓇᓱᑎᑭσ·ᐊᐣᓪ ᑭᑦ ᐅΛᒪᑎᓯ·Δσ·ᐊᐣᓪ ᐊσᑦ ᐅᐣᑎ ᐊᑦᓴᐣᑎᓰᒪᑭσ·Δᒃ ᐊ ·Δᑎᐣᐊᑭσ·Δᒃ ᑎᑦ ·Δᓴ·ᐊσᑦ·Δ° ᑭᑦ ᐊᑦᓴᐣᑎᓰᒪᑭσ·Δᒃ ᑎᑦ ᐊძσᑭσ·Δᒃ ᐊᑦᓴᐣᑎᓰᒪᑭσ·Δᒃ ᑭᑦ ᐊᑦᓴᐣᑎᓰᒪᑭσ·Δᒃ ᑲᑦ ᐊᑦᓴᐣᑎᓰᒪᑭσ·Δᒃ ᑎ

ᐋᓂᐯᒋᐋᔨᐠᐣ ᓄᐢᑭᐅᐋᔨᐠᐣ ᐁ ᓇᑎᒐᓯᐧᐣ (ᐋᔨᔭ ᐊᐣᑦ)
Grand Council of the Crees (Eeyou Istchee)
Grand Conseil des Cris (Eeyou Istchee)

ᐋᓄ/ᐋᔨᔭ ᑎᐅᑭᒫᐣ
Cree Nation Government
Gouvernement de la Nation Crie

G. C. C. E. I.

C. N. G.

GRAND CHIEF/CHAIRPERSON AND DEPUTY GRAND CHIEF/VICE-CHAIRPERSON OF THE GRAND COUNCIL OF THE CREES (EEYOU ISTCHEE) AND CREE NATION GOVERNMENT - ELECTION 2017

GRAND CHIEF/CHAIRPERSON	DEPUTY GRAND CHIEF/VICE-CHAIRPERSON
Abel BOSUM	Mandy GULL
Darlene CHEECHOO	John MATOUSH
Ashley ISERHOFF	Reggie D. NEEPOSH
Rodney MARK	
Richard SHECAPIO	

THE SCHEDULE FOR THE ELECTION IS AS FOLLOWS:

ADVANCED POLLS: Wednesday, July 5, 2017 | From 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.
ELECTION DAY: Wednesday, July 12, 2017 | From 9:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.

THE QUALIFICATIONS FOR ELIGIBILITY TO VOTE IN THE ELECTION ARE AS FOLLOWS:

a) To be a Cree Beneficiary of the James Bay and Northern Quebec Agreement.
b) To be of the age of majority at the date of the election (18 years old on July 12, 2017).

For further information, please contact:

Robin Pachanos
Chief Electoral Officer
Email: rpachanos@cngelections.ca
Tel: 418-748-5495

ᐋᓂᐯᒋᐋᔨᐠᐣ ᓄᐢᑭᐅᐋᔨᐠᐣ ᐁ ᓇᑎᒐᓯᐧᐣ (ᐋᔨᔭ ᐊᐣᑦ)
Grand Council of the Crees (Eeyou Istchee)
Grand Conseil des Cris (Eeyou Istchee)

ᐋᓄ/ᐋᔨᔭ ᑎᐅᑭᒫᐣ
Cree Nation Government
Gouvernement de la Nation Crie

G. C. C. E. I.

C. N. G.

LOCAL RETURNING OFFICERS

Community	Name	Contact Number	Polling Station Locations
Whapmagoostui	Frances George	819-929-3996	Cree Nation of Whapmagoostui
Chisasibi	Stella Ratt	514-318-6685/ 819-855-2927	Commercial Centre
Wemindji	Martha Atsynia	819-978-7731	Cree Nation of Wemindji Conference room
Eastmain	Sharon Moses	819-977-5222	Justice Building
Waskaganish	Clarence Happyjack	819-354-1984	Neepshee Plaza (Beside Post Office)
Nemaska	Tina Wapachee	819-354-1774	Recreation Hall
Ouje-Bougoumou	Jacqueline Paddy	418-770-4760	Cree Nation of Ouje-Bougoumou
Waswanipi	John Jolly	819-753-2789	Sports Complex
Mistissini	Tina Matoush	418-928-8401	Cree Nation of Mistissini
Washaw Sibi	Suzie Mowatt	819-442-0154	Motel Amosphere
Senneterre	Rebecca Moore	819-355-0598	Native Friendship Centre 910 10th avenue
MoCreebec	Kelley Kitchicappo	705-920-3173	1. Moose Factory location; 62 Hospital Drive 2. Moosonee location; 21 First Street
Val d'Or	Kimberley George	819-856-5282	Native friendship Centre 1272, 7e Rue
Ottawa	Christal Ratt	819-592-2449	Embassy of the Cree Nation 81 Metcalfe Street. Suite 900
Montreal	Glen Cooper	413-251-4512	Cree Nation Government 277 Duke Street. Suite 100

Outstanding
Indigenous Leadership

William MacLeod receives award from the Governor General

by Amy German | Photos by MCpl Vincent Carbonneau, Rideau Hall © OSGG, 2017

The gathering at the ceremony in Ottawa's Rideau Hall June 19 was a Who's Who of Indigenous movers and shakers from across Canada. They included Inuit hockey player Jordin Tootoo, former Liberal MP Tina Keeper and filmmaker Alethea Arnaquq-Baril.

Hosted by Governor General David Johnston, the event recognized 29 individuals for outstanding Indigenous leadership. The honours included the Order of Canada, the Meritorious Service Decoration, the Polar Medal, and the Sovereign's Medal for Volunteers.

Among the guests were Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, Sophie Grégoire Trudeau, actor Tom Jackson, and The Tragically Hip singer Gord Downie, who was recognized for raising awareness on residential schools and promoting reconciliation.

One of those being recognized for his lifetime of economic leadership at the helm of Cree Construction and other positions was Mistissini's William MacLeod, who received a Meritorious Service Medal. MacLeod was accompanied by his wife, children, grandchildren, siblings and cousin.

"Together, you come from right across this remarkably vast and diverse land," Johnston told recipients. "You live, work and volunteer in urban and rural communities from coast to coast to coast. You're involved in a wide range of activities: health, law, arts and culture, languages, business and so much more. What unites your efforts is a dedication to doing what is right and to doing it extraordinarily well. Today

Cree Nation of Mistissini

Congratulations to **William MacLeod**

The Cree Nation of Mistissini would like to acknowledge the great achievement by William MacLeod in receiving a ***Governor General Award - Civil Meritorious Service Medal for outstanding Indigenous leadership.***
A leader in economic development for northern Quebec, in a single decade as president, he made the Cree Construction and Development Company one of the top construction companies in Quebec.
His economic achievements have since inspired Cree youth, motivating them to take on leadership roles in their communities while remaining true to their roots.

We are very proud of you, congratulations!

"What unites your efforts is a dedication to doing what is right and to doing it extraordinarily well. Today we say thank you, and we highlight your examples to inspire others to follow."

- Governor General David Johnston

we say thank you, and we highlight your examples to inspire others to follow."

Johnston added that this is the first of a number of special ceremonies that lieutenant governors and territorial commissioners will hold this year across Canada, "bringing together Indigenous and non-Indigenous peoples to celebrate excellence."

MacLeod had received previous honours for his long business and political career, including serving as Mistissini Deputy Chief, helming Cree Construction, working for CREECO and the Cree Nation Government. But MacLeod's daughter Elaine, also an entrepreneur, said the Governor-General's Meritorious Service Medal is special.

"This one was a surprise, it just came out of the blue," said Elaine. "We are very happy for him, and very proud of him. To receive this award is very inspiring.

"I was taking pictures and listening as each recipient was receiving their award and speaking about their contribution to the communities. A lot of their achievements were not about business, so it was interesting to see people recognized for language preservation, promotion of culture, women's rights, the urban Aboriginal population, and helping people with addictions. All of them had accomplished quite a bit in life."

While she didn't get the chance to meet Gord Downie, Elaine said that her brother Anthony did.

Winning such a prestigious award, according to MacLeod, was an incredible experience not just to be recognized but to be among people who have contributed so much to the lives of other Indigenous peoples.

"It was amazing to meet and talk to these wonderful people and to see what their citations were for. There were people being recognized for preserving culture and bringing back language and helping those who had been abused or needed shelter. And, to be among them was a real honour," said MacLeod.

AUTO GAREAU Val-d'Or
GMC

Great new packages available!

Choose your deal
on our new 2017 pickups!
0% financing up to 72 months OR Rebates up to $10,000

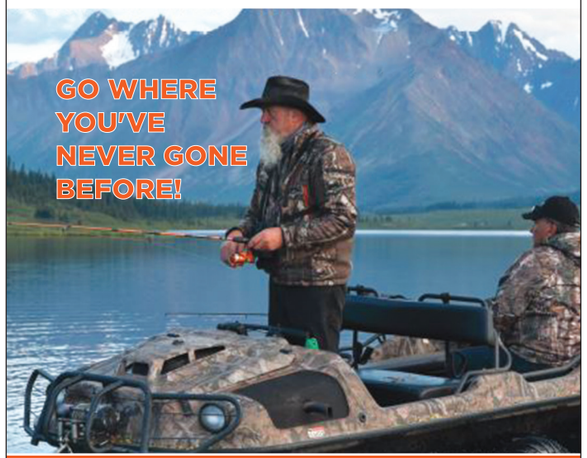
1100, 3e Avenue Est, Val-d'Or, QC J3P 4P8
Tel: (819) 825-6880 1-877-625-6880 Fax: (819) 825-8980
Visit us online at gareauauto.ca
Like us on facebook

Frédéric Provencher and Jean-Claude Moreau our bilingual Sales Representatives, will welcome you. We pay for your hotel room when you pick up your vehicle. We can deliver it to you too.

We always have lightly used Yukons and Suburbans

Argo

We sell, repair, rent & buy Argo



Jonathan Bérard
Propriétaire/Owner
Argo Québec
Tel: **819-533-4879**
Fax: 819-533-4880
jonathan@argoquebec.ca

2851 rue des Contremaîtres
Shawinigian, Qc
G9T 5K5

www.argoquebec.ca

While he got to meet Gord Downie, MacLeod said he only had the opportunity to shake Justin Trudeau's hand.

"The speech made by Tom Jackson was really amazing and touching. I had met him previously when working with Cree Construction so he singled me out in the reception. As he talked about going all over and he said, 'You can go see William if you want to go goose hunting up in northern Quebec,'" laughed MacLeod.

***"It was really interesting** to see people recognised for language preservation, promotion of culture, women's rights, the urban Aboriginal population, helping people with addictions, medicine. All of these people had accomplished quite a bit in life."*

- Elaine MacLeod

A DOUBLE ACHIEVEMENT FOR ÉLÉONORE

Off the heels of winning the National JT Ryan, Éléonore is awarded the F.J. O'Connell Trophy

The Éléonore teams are celebrating an exceptional double achievement in health and safety! After receiving the national John T. Ryan Trophy, Éléonore has now been awarded the prestigious F.J. O'Connell Trophy for its 2016 performance in the "Underground operations, more than 400,000 hours worked" category.

Awarded by the Québec Mining Association each year since 1966, the F.J. O'Connell Trophy aims to raise workers' and supervisors' awareness of incident prevention and to promote the best safety practices. Earning such a prize means that the company has significantly improved its performance and that it meets the industry average.

With these successes, we can say that safety is truly a culture, and that the Éléonore teams work endlessly to make their mine a working environment that is *safe enough for our families.*

"It is a great honour for the entire team to receive these two prestigious awards for the same year. They are a culmination of the sustained safety efforts deployed and serve as confirmation that Éléonore is indisputably one of the safest mines in Québec and Canada."

CONGRATULATIONS, EVERYONE! THANK YOU!

Guy Belleau, General Manager, Éléonore

GOLDCORP ÉLÉONORE

goldcorp
goldcorp_inc
goldcorpinc

goldcorp.com

by Dan Isaac

THE MOMENT THE WORLD WAS WATCHING

Hundreds of kilometers away from home on a wind-whipped frozen lake, the true reason why he was out there dawned on David Kawapit.

Production team and walkers take time to reflect as Journey of **Nishiyuu film premieres**

Illustration by Saige Mukash
Photos by Ben Masty & Mario Faubert

"There's this sense of quiet, to stand there and take it all in. Everything seems so small," said Kawapit. "You get a sense of fulfilment and appreciation for just being you, right there in that moment. Everything feels really, really calm – even though you're freezing."

Kawapit, then a 17-year-old Cree who'd never been away from his community, catalyzed the Journey of Nishiyuu, a 1600-km walk from Whapmagoostui to Parliament Hill in the dead of winter. The journey grew in solidarity with Attawapiskat Chief Theresa Spence on her hunger strike and the Idle No More movement of 2013.

"I wanted to support Chief Spence but I wasn't sure how to do it," said Kawapit. "So I tried to think of what the Cree way would be, and I thought it be a great idea, as a 17-year-old, to go for a walk."

Fast forward four years and the Journey of Nishiyuu has now been immortalized on the silver screen. The Cree-produced and directed documentary, in association with Agoodah Pictures, premiered June 15 at Montreal's Cinéma Beaubien to a packed crowd.

Director Ben Masty, producer Matthew Mukash, and several of the original walkers were on hand to witness the event. "I was really excited and nervous going in. I didn't know what to expect from the premiere," said Masty. "I was happy with how it turned out."

The production marked Masty's directorial debut and was a crash course in guerrilla filmmaking. Armed with his girlfriend's Nikon camera and some sound equipment, he accepted the challenge laid out by Mukash to document and tell the walkers' story.

When the walkers reached their destination on March 25 2013, the original group of seven that left Whapmagoostui had ballooned in to hundreds and social media tracked that 70 countries around the world were tuned in. **Great change came to the people in a good way.**

"What I had was what I had and it was basically just me filming and recording the whole way through. It was like if you took your iPhone and started making a documentary," said Masty. "It was all organic. I didn't plan a production schedule. I would have preferred to have a full crew and equipment, but I was able to tell a human story visually with what I had."

Masty remembered one occasion where his camera froze after only minutes out in -30 degree temperatures. "It didn't take very long before the camera would freeze and fog up and I'd have to fix it."

Capturing the moment by any means necessary was crucial, said former Grand Chief Matthew Mukash. "There comes a time in human history when something out-of-the-ordinary comes out of nowhere and we realize that it is a sign that great change is coming into our world," said Mukash.

"Practically, the whole world was watching the journey. For me, it was a story that needed to be told."

In the opening segment of the film, the journey of Nishiyuu is likened to the Cree legend of Cheecheojans through an animation, illustrated by Saige Mukash – a.k.a. Nalakwsis – and narrated in Cree by Matthew Mukash. It was the Elders of the community who reminded the production team of the evocative similarities. The animation sets the stage for the drama of the documentary to play out.

A little boy who lost his grandfather would not stop crying. When asked what would make him stop crying, he responded that "hunting summer birds would." A team of young warriors were then sent to the south to fetch the Spirit of Summer that was kept in a Bundle by a selfish tribe who wanted summer only for themselves. So, the warriors went south and encountered many obstacles and fierce battles on the way. But being the dedicated, fearless warriors that they were, their mission was a success. Wherever they were on the way back home, the snow and ice melted and vegetation started to blossom. By the time they reached their village, the grieving boy was happy because he was able to hunt summer birds. Great change came to the people in a good way. — Matthew Mukash paraphrasing the Legend of Cheecheojans

Public Notice

Ministère des Forêts, de la Faune et des Parcs

PUBLIC CONSULTATION ON FORESTRY OPERATIONS

From **June 26 to July 21, 201**7 the Ministère des Forêts, de la Faune et des Parcs (MFFP) invites the public to express its opinion on wood harvesting and other forestry operations modified in the 2017-2018 integrated operational forest development plans (IOFDPs) in the Nord-du-Québec region and on the modifications in the 2013-2018 plans.

An array of work will be carried out in forests in the coming years. The integrated forest development plans indicate in practical terms where wood harvesting could occur, land preparation, reforestation, slashing, and so on. Moreover, to access the potential tree-felling sites, roads and other infrastructure must be built or enhanced and will also be covered by the consultations. Accordingly, professionals in the MFFP would like to ascertain the concerns of forest users related to the forestry operations planned.

You are invited to meet with MFFP professionals to share with them your questions or concerns at one of the following information sessions:

SCHEDULE OF CONSULTATION MEETINGS

DEVELOPMENT UNIT	DATE and TIME	PLACE
• 8664, 8665, 8666	**July 4, 2017** from noon to 1 p.m.	Matagami: Salon Xstrata, Hôtel-Motel Matagami (99, boulevard Matagami)
• 2661, 2662, 2663, 2664, 2665, 2666	**July 5, 2017** at 6:30 p.m.	Chibougamau: City Hall (650, 3e Rue)
• 8751*, 8762, 8763	**July 6, 2017** at 6:30 p.m.	Lebel-sur-Quévillon: room No. 2, City Hall (500, place Quévillon)

*** This development unit (DU) is affected by the 2013-2018 integrated forest development plans and the other units are affected by the 2017-2018 integrated forest development plans.**

You can consult the IOFDPs during the consultation and submit comments on the MFFP website (**http://www.mffp.gouv.qc.ca/forets/consultation-amenagement.jsp**) or at the offices of the MFFP during business hours. We will be able to answer your questions and note your concerns on the potential tree-felling sites that have been targeted.

Unité de gestion de Chibougamau
624, 3e Rue
Chibougamau (Québec) G8P 1P1
Telephone: 418-748-2647
Fax: 418-748-3359

Unité de gestion de l'Harricana-Nord
1122, route 111 Est
Amos (Québec) J9T 1N1
Telephone: 819-444-5238
Fax: 819-444-5837

Unité de gestion de Lebel-sur-Quévillon
1121, boul. Industriel, C. P. 159
Lebel-sur-Quévillon (Québec) J0Y 1X0
Telephone: 819-755-4838
Fax: 819-755-3541

IMPORTANT: For information on the MFFP's forthcoming public consultations in the Nord-du-Québec region, please contact christine.morin@mffp.gouv.qc.ca and indicate "Request to register on the email list" in the subject line of your email.

Québec

When the walkers reached their destination on March 25, 2013, the original group of seven that left Whapmagoostui had ballooned into hundreds and social media indicated that people from 70 countries around the world were tuned in.

"At a time when we're talking about reconciliation between Canada and the Indigenous peoples of this country, the journey itself points to the need to have a community vision for the future, unity not only among our youth but among all peoples of the world," said Mukash. "This – as I understood it and it is expressed in the film – was the key message of the 2013 Journey of Nishiiyuu. We need to continue to nurture the spirit of the Journey of Nishiiyuu and let it guide us forward."

The documentary succeeds in taking the raw footage and creating a relatable, human story. We see the challenges, the ceremony, the laughs, and a group of seven walkers grow into a global movement.

"It was exciting and very emotional. For me, it was a dream come true," said Mukash after the premiere. "I was delighted to see these Eeyou-Eenou youth on the silver screen, and reading the credits seeing that the direction, music, photography, and other work, was all done by Eeyouch made me proud."

Kawapit concluded by saying the journey "gave me the courage to do what I want and need to do. If I can do that, there's not much I won't be able to do the rest of my life. Even if you're up against a million obstacles, all it takes is commitment and a focus on what you need to accomplish."

The film will be screened at the Views of the World Film and Music Festival in Montreal September 19-24.

"Even if you stand against a million obstacles, all it takes is ***commitment and focus*** *on what you need to accomplish".*
- David Kawapit

ABEL BOSUM
BRINGING IT HOME

The Eeyou Nation has achieved many extraordinary milestones in asserting Eeyou rights, Indigenous rights and Human rights, which have translated into benefits for our Nation and our communities. The struggles, the challenges and the hard work of the last forty years have been about improving the lives of our communities. It has been a journey to social justice. We have blazed a trail for Indigenous rights internationally. It is now time to bring it home.

1. Youth Development Strategy

1. Encourage our Youth to complete their studies. Help develop their skills and training with the intent to have them enter and fill all sectors of employment from the professional, administrative, technical and skilled labour sectors so that we can become “masters of our own homes”.
2. Develop and implement an approach to ensure that jobs are readily available for Post-Secondar students while on summer break from their studies by establishing a liaison between students, Cree School Board and Cree entities.
3. Create and develop transition measures for Post-Secondary graduates so they can access employment in Cree organizations in their area of studies.
4. Develop internship/mentoring programs with Cree organizations to facilitate and secure employment for graduates upon completion of studies.

2. Community Development Strategy

1. Tackle our Housing Crisis by ensuring accessibility to housing which is affordable, while promoting home ownership.
2. Pave our communities to reduce health related issues, prevent housing decay, while adding value to our houses and beautification of our communities.

3. Economic Development Strategy

1. Negotiate the implementation of Sections 28.10.3 and 28.10.4 of the James Bay and Northern Quebec. Agreement dealing with preferential contracting and hiring.
2. Establish protocols to ensure that there will be preferential contracting to Cree entrepreneurs for all projects that take place within Eeyou Istchee.
3. Favour and Support small/medium local businesses to contribute to a strong and diversified Cree economy.
4. Promote new Cree economy.
5. Adapt the CCQ regime within Eeyou Istchee so that the approach to certification in the construction trades will be tailored to Cree realities.

4. Social Development Strategy

1. Establish a Cree Nation Social Development Plan by bringing together all Cree organizations and coordinating their resources and efforts.
2. Move towards creating a vision of a society where every member, every man, woman and child, has a place, a sense of value, a gift to bring.
3. Tackle systemic racism by implementing the recommendations coming out of the federal Inquiry i into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Quebec’s Judicial Inquiry on relations between Indigenous Peoples and certain public institutions.

5. Continuing the Cree Nation-Building Agenda

1. The last forty years of Cree history has been about putting into place all the building-blocks of a unique and strong Eeyou Nation. We must continue to work together to solidify our political gains and develop our Eeyou Constitution.
2. Establish a collective process of building upon the framework of the Governance Agreement.

6. Implementing Our Agreements

1. Bring home the benefits of the 80+ agreements signed by the Cree Nation.
2. Educate ourselves about the agreements and how to use them as tools to benefit our communities.

7. Cree Hunters & Trappers and our Environment

1. Put into place more initiatives to create wealth for the Trappers and bring their income levels up to a higher standard.
2. Promote the Cree Regional Conservation Strategy.

ADVERTORIAL

Hydlo and FRIENDS Online

Monitoring changes in riparian and aquatic vegetation

E nâkataweyihtanûch tân e ispayich maschekuhch Kaye chekwân nihtâuchihch anite

To watch the new video, visit **www.hydloandfriends.com**

In the area of the Rupert River and Rupert diversion bays, a team monitors changes in riparian and aquatic vegetation. They survey the plant communities along a transect to determine its profile. The same transects are surveyed over several years to assess the changes in vegetation.

Teamwork

Allan Rabbitskin
Field worker, Mistissini

Rupert River

Each month, a new video will be added to hydloandfriends.com. To learn more, listen to the Hydlo and Friends radio show on JBCCS. Its hosts, Luke MacLeod and Luc Duquette, discuss the environmental follow-up activities related to the Eastmain-Sarcelle-Rupert complex, as well as the concerns of land users with regard to Hydro-Québec’s facilities and activities.

Next show:
Wednesday, July 12,
at 8:00 a.m.

Photos by Catherine Orr

MIKW CHIYÂM

The Nation's new youth correspondent shares his experience at inaugural student art showcase

by Trey Turner

On June 24, the Mikw Chiyâm Arts Festival was held in Chisasibi. This event was the first-ever end-of-year gathering of all the students enrolled in the Mikw Chiyâm Arts Concentration Program in Eeyou Istchee. Students from Mistissini and Waskaganish traveled to the James Bay Eeyou School in Chisasibi to display some of the artwork they created during the year.

I was one of those students who traveled to Chisasibi. My name is Trey Turner. On the afternoon of June 23, we traveled via coach from Mistissini to Chisasibi, a near 12-hour ride with no WiFi and one pit stop at the halfway point. Luckily, the chaperones packed snacks. Once we made it to the school, the artists-in-residence who were our teachers throughout the year greeted us. It was heart-warming to see them again, as most of us missed being in the art room with them. When the hugging party was over, they brought us to the Agora where we gathered our luggage and sat down. At this point, it was after 6 pm. Everyone, except the lucky ones from Chisasibi, had traveled many hours and were tired and hungry.

Pizza, popcorn and a delicious raspberry fizzy drink were served as supper. I had three slices and too much popcorn. After

The rooster cock-a-doodle-dooed at 9 am. Our chaperones played the ukulele and sung us out of our slumber.

everyone had finished eating, music producer David Hodges hooked up a microphone and began announcing the festival and sleeping plans for the students. The students had free time until 11 pm, and I spent that time fiddling around with musical instruments in Chisasibi's art room and watching *Grease*. At 11 pm, students who had a place to sleep in Chisasibi left the school, while the others (including me) were sent upstairs to a recreational room where we were to sleep on gym mats and mattresses we had packed. As we slept, people were setting up equipment for the festival. I slept poorly on a down-feather blanket on a gym mat.

The rooster cock-a-doodle-dooed at 9 am. Our chaperones played the ukulele and sung us out of our slumber. We were summoned back down to the Agora where bagels and croissants with cream cheese and yogurt parfaits were served as breakfast. Once we had stuffed our faces, David announced the plan for the day. Students, artists and teachers were to set up the artwork for the public to see by noon. It seemed difficult at first, but then someone had the idea of placing two tables against each other, creating a double-sided easel display for paintings and sculptures. The works were placed on the walls of the Agora, the double-sided tables, and then lockers once we ran out of space.

Multimedia film was displayed on a projector beside the stage and all live performances took place on the stage. I printed out 20 pieces of paper in the teacher's lounge and cut-and-pasted them all to a poster. These papers constituted Black Ice, a short story I wrote earlier this year. I taped the poster to the lockers for anyone who had the time to read.

Once all the students, artists and teachers finished perusing the makeshift gallery, lunch was served in the school kitchen. After lunch, artists and teachers set up "making" stations for printmaking, collage, a photo booth and a mural for two hours. At 3 pm, the doors were opened to the public, the ribbon was cut, and the Mikw Chiyâm Arts Festival was officially underway. People came in and saw the artwork that students from three separate schools had worked on during the school year. It was a wonderful experience. For three hours, I participated in the printmaking station, where I made my own print, and the mural station, where I pasted together an outer space landscape. The festival ended at 6 pm. The public left and everyone cleaned up and took a break.

A BBQ was happening outside and everyone was served hamburgers, an odd onion salad and flattened pretzels. Again, I fiddled around with musical instruments for an hour. At 8 pm, the doors to the school were opened again to the public not for the art show, but for the music show that was happening until 11 pm. Loads of people attended this event and for good reason. Performers included Mariame, winner of the Best Pop Album Award from the Indigenous Music Awards; Vangalo, a rising local DJ who makes sick mashups; The NorthStars, the Nemaska rap

VOTE for
JOHN MATOUSH
DEPUTY GRAND CHIEF
"New Leadership for Changing times"
Our Nation has endured many challenges and has been successful in moving forward. I applaud the work done by our past leaders and together we have contributed to the Growth of our Nation.
(819) 527-8224
johnsmatoush@hotmail.com
facebook.com/John S. Matoush for Deputy Grand Chief
Advance Polls - July 5
Election Day - July 12

trio who spit bars; and Heart of the Land, a traditional drum group who cause heart palpitations but in a good way.

Besides these musical acts, several Mikw Chiyâm students and teachers also took to the stage. One performed original poetry, another rapped Alphabet Aerobics by Blackalicious, two teachers played original music, and a student/artist duo sang Adele's Hello. Midway through the event, the chairs in the front were pushed aside to make room for dancing. And dance they did.

Mariame's final song marked the end of the event and people began to leave. Before many left, however, they conversed with the artists. Then students were sent to bed, but not before hanging out at the bonfire outside and playing a massive game of "Cards Against Humanity". We hit the hay pretty late that night, around 1-2 am – we kept talking over games of Crazy Eights in the rec room. I set up my "bed" on a single reclining sofa. That night I slept really well.

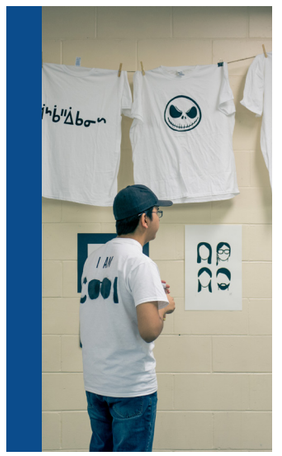
At 8 am the next day, the Waskaganish and Mistissini visitors had to be shaken-up for breakfast. We ate bacon, pancakes, scrambled eggs and toast in preparation for the long drive home. Outside by the coach, the 20-plus of us stood for a picture. We hugged the artists-in-residence and our new friends goodbye. We were all overtaken with sadness as we drove out of Chisasibi.

The Mikw Chiyâm Arts Festival was a very notable and fun experience, one that we, the Mikw Chiyâm team, have all been looking forward to all year. Did it deliver?

Yes! Yes, it did!

Trey Turner is a 17-year-old student at Voyageur Memorial School in Mistissini.

We hugged the artists-in-residence and our new friends goodbye. We were all overtaken with sadness as we drove out of Chisasibi.



Reggie Neeposh

Deputy Grand Chief

Building a
Great Nation

Wed. July 12

Vote for Reggie

It's time for a new generation of leaders to stand up!

418-770-6089 reg.neeposh@hotmail.com

- NOTICE -

Board of Compensation

ᐊᓂᔑᓇᐯᒧᐎᓐ ᐅᑭᐢᑲᒪᒋᔭᐎᓐ ᐅᓂᐢᑲᓂᐸᐢᑲᓂᐎᓐ ᐊᓂᔑᓇᐯᒧᐎᓐ

ANNUAL ASSEMBLY
of the
BOARD OF COMPENSATION

TAKE NOTICE that the **Annual Assembly** of the **Board of Compensation** will be held in Wemindji on July 12 & 13, 2017 commencing at 9:00AM daily.

RUSTY CHEEZO
Chairman
Board of Compensation

- CATERING NEEDED -

For our annual assembly to be held in Wemindji.

Number of people: 100
Where: **Community Hall, WEMINDJI**
WHEN: **JULY 12 & 13, 2017**

9AM Snacks, Coffee, Tea, Water
12PM Lunch
2PM Snacks, Coffee, Tea, Water

For more information call Blanche at 418-745-3931 or via email bawashish@boc-creeco.ca

CREE CONNECTIONS

cree connections

ECN completing **Quebec's fastest** internet service network

By Amy German

According to Eeyou Communications Network's Alfred Loon, internet speed in the Cree communities isn't just on par with service in southern cities, it may now be even better.

"ECN has built an all fibre-optic service to the 14 Cree and James Bay centres south of La Grande. It currently operates with world-class internet standards and serves major institutions with tele-health, education and governance. It is capable of delivering the same or better quality of internet service as any provider in Montreal or Toronto," said Loon.

One of those specialty services allows doctors in Val-d'Or or Montreal to see real-time information transmitted from a clinic technician operating instruments, such as an ultrasound transducer probe. It also allows a patient to consult a psychiatrist in privacy through the secure network, without having to leave their local support system. At the Justice Department, the same network makes it possible for people in custody to confidentially speak with their lawyer.

Cree Board of Health and Social Services Chair Bella Moses Petawabano noted that technology has changed the way medicine is delivered to Cree communities.

"ECN meant we could introduce tele-health," she observed. "For patients, we see positive results in diabetes case management, ophthalmology and at-risk pregnancies. Our remote hospitals can now provide dialysis supported by tele-nephrology, tele-psychiatry and we can reduce travel. We can also recruit doctors more easily and reduce the patient-to-doctor ratio."

ECN's powerful network makes all of this possible by bringing services directly to people without removing them from their communities. They are currently completing its "last-mile service" of home fibre-optic service, which will be in operation by April 2018.

"ECN will be the first internet service provider to offer a fully symmetrical gigabit internet service in Quebec. ECN will thus be providing the best internet ser-

vice in the province. All communities will be hooked up simultaneously before April 1 once the construction is complete. Work crews are currently scheduled to begin in the communities in 4 to 6 weeks," Loon explained.

"Eeyou Istchee is becoming less remote," said former Grand Chief Ted Moses. "Distances can now be calculated in microseconds. With our own advanced communication services, we have become a full partner in the information technology economy, a sector that in the past has been severely inaccessible."

According to Loon, the installation of the technology necessary on the lines throughout the region has been fully funded – no band council has been asked to contribute. Loon said that all councils supported an ECN application for federal funding and the shortfall was bridged with grants and loans from the Cree Nation Government and ECN itself.

He noted that funding is based on the delivery of a service of not less than 50 MB a second to every home for a retail price of $55 per month. Based on the number of households, Loon said ECN will be able to meet the standard.

"The projected service will be more than internet. It will also include a full television service with all major networks and specialty services and a telephone service with toll-free inter-community dialing. In addition, services such as streaming channels will be fully accessible. The basic three-services offering will cost about $155 a month. That price is comparable to any service available in Montreal or Toronto," said Loon.

Loon also stated that ECN will provide the fastest internet service in the province with the first fully symmetrical gigabit internet service in Quebec (1000 megabits per second in download and upload).

Speeds up to 250 MB or 1 GB per second will also be available, as will unlimited downloads. A set-top digital recorder box that can record and store programs for later viewing is likewise on offer, said Loon.

The CRTC even cited ECN in a recent report on industry innovation as being "unique in Canada as an advanced network – despite its remote location."

"It is internet that works when you need it, even if everyone else in the community is using it at the same time," Loon observed. "It does not use old or recycled technology, it is top-of-the-line state-of-the-art technology that is based solely on fibre-optic technology – no microwaves or telephone copper or cable coax copper wires in the ECN system."

Réseau de communications EEYOU Communications Network

Regional Radio Show on Housing
from the Capital Works and Services Department / Housing and ownership in the Cree Nation
Wednesday July 19, 2017 from 12:15 to 12:45
CREE NATION GOVERNMENT - CAPITAL WORKS AND SERVICES - EEYOU HOUSING
Great monthly prizes for listeners!
Cree Nation Government
Gouvernement de la Nation Crie
CAPITAL WORKS & SERVICES
Your host:
Lawrence P. Katapatuk
Regional Housing Planner
Join us on JBCCS
(James Bay Cree Communications Society)
every third Wednesday of every month
LIVE from Whapmagoostui
We need community members' input, suggestions and comments concerning housing in the Cree Nation.

"Get Ready for Home Ownership"
Cree Nation Tour 2017-2018
Presented by the Cree Nation Government
Capital Works Services
With Lawrence P. Katapatuk, Regional Housing Planner, and Ryan Rice, Housing Industry Specialist
Call us for more information - 819-856-5234
or email housingplanner@cngov.ca
We will visit your community. Check upcoming ads.
Cree Nation Government
Gouvernement de la Nation Crie
CAPITAL WORKS & SERVICES
JULY 11 & 12, 2017
6:30pm - 9:30pm
Door prizes, promo items giveaway, refreshments.
WHAPMAGOOSTUI
WHAPMAGOOSTUI SPORTS COMPLEX

NOW ON SALE IN RADISSON

THE ULTIMATE

POWER PAIR

NEW!

EU2000i Companion

EU2000i Parallel

Optional Parallel Operation Cable*

Putting power together with reliable and expandable parallel connectivity.

- **Expandable Parallel Connectivity** — Together power up to 4,000 watts
- **Reliable Portable Power** — More versatile and easy storage
- **Quiet High Quality Performance** — Power sensitive electronics

Division Radisson Baie-James
Bibeau Moto Sport

Distribué par: ALJA
819 638-7363 bureau | 819 638-9123 cell.

HONDA Power Equipment

honda.ca

*Optional parallel operation cable (part number: 08E93-HPK-1Z3HI) required for parallel connectivity. Maximum continuous output in parallel operation is 3200 watts or 26.7 amps @ 120 VAC. For optim performance and safety, always read and understand your owner's manual carefully and perform a pre-operation inspection before operating your Honda Power Equipment. Never run a generator in enclosed or even partially enclosed area. Generator exhaust contains odourless, poisonous carbon monoxide gas that can cause unconsciousness or death. Prior to operating your Honda Generator che your equipment or appliance for actual wattage requirements. Models and colours may not be exactly as shown. For full details and safety information visit honda.ca.

>7288886

THE CREE MINERAL EXPLORATION BOARD
CONSEIL CRI SUR L'EXPLORATION MINÉRALE

ROCK COMPETITION – GO DIG AND HAVE FUN!

General Category
1st place: $1,500
2nd place: $1,000
3rd place: $500

Prosepector Category
One prize of $2,000

The Cree Mineral Exploration Board's Rock Competition to reward new mineral discoveries in Eeyou Istchee

Requirements:
New discovery
Sample must be the size of a fist
Sample must be located on a map
Complete the application form

Deadline and shipping:
CMEB assumes the analysis expenses of the participating samples
The contest ends on October 31
Shipping is at participant's expense

Do not forget: Hints on the ground: look for rusty surfaces
Hints after breaking: sample metallic minerals

NAME _____
PHONE _____
ADDRESS _____
COMMUNITY _____
SIGNATURE _____

SAMPLE LOCATION PLACE NAME _____
MAP _____
GPS COORDINATES _____ E _____ N
SAMPLE COLLECTED FROM ☐ Shore Line ☐ Island ☐ Stream Bank ☐ River Bank ☐ Lake Side ☐ Mountain ☐ Other

Send to: CMEB 16 Beaver Road, Box 210, Wemindji, QC, Canada JOM 1LO Tel: 819-978-0264 ext. 327 Fax: 819-978-3834 E-mail: youceflarbi@creenet.com

Fashionistas

by Sonny Orr

Rez Notes

At times, certain thoughts flash through my mind that have nothing to do with the never-ending state of the universe. They include comments such as, "Hey! Isn't that the same t-shirt you've worn since time immemorial?" or, "Did you really wear diapers made from torn-up jeans?" or, "Are those hand-me-downs from your dad who got them from his dad?" These are comments that affect me deeply as I look into the past to see what they actually meant.

Back in the day, it was a must to be seen in the same clothes that Dick and Jane wore – Dick had the coolest red-plaid-lined jeans with cuffed hems. Now that was convenient – long johns sewn right into a pair of jeans. Mind you, that was 1965 and the world was much cooler then. Dick and Jane were role models for kids everywhere. For me, at least then, my jeans had to be the same as Dick's, there was no way around it.

Ten years later, after outgrowing Dick's ultra-cool jeans, I added long johns during the cold months and stuck to denim only. This denim phase is still going strong within my genes. I will probably die with jeans on or at least nearby my cold, stiff body.

For a while, I even wore jean jackets, which were extremely cool. In fact, jean jackets rocketed to the top of the fashion charts when Billy Jack arrived on screen and started kicking everyone's ass. It was the next level in coolness – how to kung fu the heck out of everything.

Then the New Age began. Jeans flowered out into bell bottoms, which everyone wore during the eye-sorriest years of my life, until they came back to their senses and favoured the tight-fitting style. In those years, it was hard to breathe and walk at the same time, and getting out of cars often called for splits and tears in the loin areas when exiting a low vehicle. It was only years later we learned that most clothes were made by slave children in Bangladesh and a social conscience descended upon the fashion world of denim.

Today, most clothes are manufactured in countries that depend heavily on having thousands of people living in cities surrounding factories that produce billions of items to wear. Today, I do a lot of research for market information and it's becoming clear how much we, as people of the north, depend so heavily on satisfying our cravings for things.

We crave to be like the rest of the world when the rest of the world craves what we have – clean air and water, decent living and social conditions, and strong government support structures. Taking all of that for granted and then crying about what we don't have seems to be self-defeating. Why do we have to wear the latest fashions when we can always wear denim? Something familiar and comfortable and still rocks a room of tuxedos. Yeah, I could wear a denim tuxedo. That's even cooler than James Bond's custom-made, bulletproof and male pheromone-reeking outfit.

Recently, I changed my style to simple khakis and that seems to work for me. I just blend right into the background and can mystically disappear on a windy sandy day. Sometimes walks on the beach become like, "Hey! Where did I go?" I outlived that when my clothes started ripping apart after years of wear. Khaki tends to wear out, but only after thousands of wearing and washings. I still have some khaki clothes that I wear on special occasions.

But for timeless fashion, I'll stick to jeans, thank you.

VOTE
MANDY GULL
FOR DEPUTY GRAND CHIEF
"A New Voice - Ready to Serve"

Under the Northern Sky

A legacy of love

by Xavier Kataquapit

I have a good life and so much to be thankful for. Everything I am and any success or goodness I have in my life is tied directly to my parents, family and friends. Many Elders, Native and non-Native, have paused on their way to lift me up in some way or other with a teaching and acts of kindness.

When my friends Emily and Mike McGrath introduced me to Verna Turner on my arrival to Iroquois Falls 20 years ago, a wonderful, kind, creative and wise person came into my life. Verna, or Mere as everyone referred to her as, passed away recently, and with her passing, a bit of Iroquois Falls died too. Verna was the town's biggest cheerleader and more or less documented its people, land and buildings over many decades in artwork that hangs in homes throughout the north.

Verna was part of a special town art group that welcomed my cousin Ron Kataquapit into their projects and encouraged him to draw and paint. She was always devoting time to passing along her knowledge of art and she instilled the appreciation for the creative process in all of her children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren. They all knew her as Mere – someone they could always turn to for comfort, guidance and a boost of fun.

Verna liked to have a good time and to be around people. She loved music and was thrilled when her son John came to visit with his guitar. John, who works in corrections in Lindsay, Ontario, often gathered with Verna, his brothers Jim, Dan and sister Nancy and their families at the lakeside and around campfires under the northern sky.

I was very fragile, a bit lost and confused by life outside my remote First Nation of Attawapiskat when I arrived in Iroquois Falls. Verna was one of those people who went out of their way to make me feel at home and welcome. She truly loved everyone and did not see people in terms of colour or race, but realized the spirit in all she met. I have such great memories of sitting around her table enjoying home-cooked meals and laughing with friends. Her words of encouragement and her kindness made a difference in my life.

It is sad to lose people, but I was reminded at her wake recently that her kindness, generosity and creativity lives on in her beautiful family. Her son John has always made me feel like he has known me for years and he has encouraged me from very early on with my writing. He is an example of the kind of people we need working in corrections in this country as his strongest attribute is the kindness and creativity he inherited from Verna. Often when I visited Verna in her little house in "the circle" in Iroquois Falls, she would tell me how proud she was of Nancy's two boys, Darcy and Travis. They were lucky to be by her side and growing up at home with Verna after Nancy's passing.

At the wake I had the pleasure to see some interesting art in the corner that her granddaughter Cynthia and her children, "The Twins", had painted. That art was cheerful, colourful and seemed just perfect in remembering Verna. I am quite sure the grandchildren will be making art and music as they grow with the seeds of creativity Verna planted. How lucky I was to have met someone like Verna. She made me feel special, strong and gifted by reminding me in encouraging words. I did not know her husband Lorne as he passed on many years ago, but I saw an old black-and-white photo of them on their wedding day and I could tell by the smile on her face and light in her eyes that he was the love of her life.

I wonder what can we do to honour Verna and to keep her spirit alive. I imagine her leaning over to tell me with those bright eyes and broad smile that the best tribute would be to make sure there is lots of room for love, laughter, art, music and dance in our lives. Surely, that is Verna Turner's legacy.

AEI

Anishinabek Educational Institute

www.aeipostsecondary.ca

- Accredited with Ontario Colleges
- Full time Certificate and Diploma programs with cultural components integrated into curriculum

2 locations North Bay 705-497-9127 and Muncey 519-289-0777 or toll free 1-800-334-3330

Everyone is welcome and there's no cost to apply!

GUNSMITH ON LOCATION

Distribution Nord-Select

HUNTING • FISHING • GENERAL STORE • FURNITURE

Matagami: 4 rue Nottaway 819-739-3883

Chisasibi 819-855-2062

marc-andre@nord-select.qc.ca Delivery to James Bay - C.O.D.

WORKING TOGETHER FOR SAFER AND ENGAGED COMMUNITIES

You have a project that could help make your community a better place?

Through these funds, the DOJCS (Department of Justice and Correctional Services) provides financial assistance to community members willing to implement initiatives that facilitate and improve the administration of justice for the Crees across Eeyou Istchee.

Be engaged. Make a difference.

For details, please visit the DOJCS website at: http://creejusticefunds.ca or phone (418) 923-2661, ext. 1180.

WE AIM HIGHER !

WE OFFER DISCOUNTED FARES **

35 ANS YEARS

airCreebec

FOR INFORMATION, RESERVATIONS OR CHARTERS

1-800-567-6567

WWW.AIRCREEBEC.CA

***certain conditions may apply.*